

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-105. (Canceled)

106. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor ~~modulator~~ of MRP- β , comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting a cell with a candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor of MRP- β ;
- (b) assaying the level of expression of the MRP- β nucleic acid molecule set forth as SEQ ID No: 1 in said cell,

wherein a detectable ~~fluctuation-decrease~~ in said level indicates that said candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor is an MRP- β ~~modulator~~ inhibitor, thereby identifying an MRP- β inhibitor.

107. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor ~~modulator~~ of MRP- β , comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting a cell with a substrate exported or sequestered by MRP- β , said cell expressing a vector-derived MRP- β polypeptide, the amino acid sequence of which shares at least ~~75~~90% sequence identity with SEQ ID No: 2, ~~as determined by the ALIGN algorithm (weight residue table = PAM120, gap length penalty = 12, gap penalty = 4), wherein said MRP- β functions to transport, expel, or sequester substances from an intracellular milieu, and wherein;~~
- (b) contacting said cell with a candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor of MRP- β ;
- (c) assaying for a detectable ~~fluctuation-decrease~~ in export or sequestration of said substrate,

wherein a detectable ~~fluctuation-decrease~~ in said export or sequestration ~~which~~ indicates that said candidate inhibitor is an MRP- β ~~modulator~~ inhibitor, thereby identifying an MRP- β inhibitor.

108. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a ~~modulator~~ inhibitor of MRP- β , comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting a cell with a cytotoxin exported or sequestered by MRP- β , said cell expressing a vector-derived MRP- β polypeptide, the amino acid sequence of which shares at least ~~75~~90% sequence identity with SEQ ID No: 2, ~~as determined by the ALIGN algorithm (weight residue table = PAM120, gap length penalty = 12, gap penalty = 4), wherein said MRP- β functions to transport, expel, or sequester substances from an intracellular milieu;~~
- (b) contacting said cell with a candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor of MRP- β ;
- (c) assaying survival of said cell,

wherein a detectable fluctuation-decrease in said survival which indicates that said candidate inhibitor is an MRP- β ~~modulator~~ inhibitor, thereby identifying an MRP- β inhibitor.

109.-114. (Canceled)

115. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 107 or claim 108, wherein the amino acid sequence of the vector-derived MRP- β polypeptide shares at least ~~85~~95% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 2.

116. (Canceled)

117. (Previously Presented) The method of any one of claims 107 and 138-140, wherein the substrate is a cytotoxin.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of any one of claims 107-108 and 138-143, wherein MRP- β expression confers a survival advantage on said cell.

119. (Canceled)

120. (Previously Presented) The method of any one of claims 107-108 and 138-143, wherein the cell expresses a cell surface MRP- β polypeptide.
121. (Previously Presented) The method of any one of claims 106-108 and 138-143, wherein the cell is a eukaryotic cell.
122. (Previously Presented) The method of any one of claims 106-108 and 138-143, wherein the cell is a yeast or mammalian cell.
123. (Previously Presented) The method of any one of claims 106-108 and 138-143, wherein the cell is a human cell.
124. (Previously Presented) The method of any one of claims 106-108 and 138-143, wherein the cell is a MCF-7 cell.
125. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein assaying the level of MRP- β comprises assaying the amount or rate of production of MRP- β nucleic acid molecule.
126. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 135, wherein assaying the level of MRP- β comprises assaying the amount or rate of production of MRP- β polypeptide is in said cell.
127. (Canceled)
128. (Canceled)
129. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 106-108 and 138-143, wherein the candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor is contacted with the cell prior to, concomitantly with, or following exposure to the substrate.

130. (Canceled)
131. (Canceled)
132. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 106-108, wherein the candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of a natural metabolite, a synthetic chemical, a synthetic metabolite, a toxin, an antibiotics, an element of a combinatorial chemistry library, an element of a nucleotide library, an element of a peptide library, a naturally sourced chemical, a naturally sourced cell secretion product, a cell lysate,
133. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 106-108, wherein the candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor is a small molecule.
134. (Canceled)
135. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor ~~modulator~~ of MRP- β , comprising the steps of:
- (a) contacting a cell with a candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor;
 - (b) assaying the level of expression of the MRP- β polypeptide set forth as SEQ ID No: 2 in said cell wherein said MRP- β functions to transport, expel, or sequester substances from an intracellular milieu,
- wherein a detectable ~~fluctuation~~ decrease in said level indicates that said candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor is an MRP- β ~~modulator~~ inhibitor, thereby identifying an MRP- β inhibitor.
136. (Cancel)

137. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107 or 108, wherein the amino acid sequence of the vector-derived MRP- β polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 2.
138. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor ~~modulator~~ of MRP- β , comprising the steps of:
- (a) contacting a cell with a substrate exported or sequestered by MRP- β , said cell expressing a vector-derived MRP- β polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under conditions of hybridization in 0.5M NaHPO₄ at 65°C followed by washing in 0.1xSSC at 68°C to a complement of the nucleic acid molecule having the sequence of SEQ ID No: 1, wherein said MRP- β polypeptide functions to transport, expel, or sequester substances from an intracellular milieu;
 - (b) contacting said cell with a candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor of MRP- β ;
 - (c) assaying for a detectable ~~fluctuation~~ decrease in export or sequestration of said substrate,
- wherein a detectable ~~fluctuation~~ decrease in said export or sequestration which indicates that said candidate inhibitor is an MRP- β ~~modulator~~ inhibitor, thereby identifying an MRP- β inhibitor.
139. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor ~~modulator~~ of MRP- β , comprising the steps of:
- (a) contacting a cell with a substrate exported or sequestered by MRP- β , said cell expressing a vector-derived MRP- β polypeptide encoded the nucleic acid molecule having the sequence of SEQ ID No: 1;
 - (b) contacting said cell with a candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor of MRP- β ;
 - (c) assaying for a detectable ~~fluctuation~~ decrease in export or sequestration of said substrate,

wherein a detectable ~~fluctuation-decrease~~ in said export or sequestration which indicates that said candidate inhibitor is an MRP- β ~~modulator~~ inhibitor, thereby identifying an MRP- β inhibitor.

140. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor ~~modulator~~ of MRP- β , comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting a cell with a substrate exported or sequestered by MRP- β , said cell expressing a vector-derived MRP- β polypeptide by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited as ATCC Deposit No. 94809;
- (b) contacting said cell with a candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor of MRP- β ;
- (c) assaying for a detectable ~~fluctuation-decrease~~ in export or sequestration of said substrate,

wherein a detectable ~~fluctuation-decrease~~ in said export or sequestration which indicates that said candidate inhibitor is an MRP- β ~~modulator~~ inhibitor, thereby identifying an MRP- β inhibitor.

141. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor ~~modulator~~ of MRP- β , comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting a cell with a cytotoxin exported or sequestered by MRP- β said cell is expressing a vector-derived MRP- β polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under conditions of hybridization in 0.5M NaHPO₄ at 65°C followed by washing in 0.1xSSC at 68°C to a complement of the nucleic acid molecule having the sequence of SEQ ID No: 1, wherein said MRP- β functions to transport, expel, or sequester substances from an intracellular milieu, and wherein;
- (b) contacting said cell with a candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor of MRP- β ;
- (c) assaying survival of said cell,

wherein a detectable ~~fluctuation-decrease~~ in said survival which indicates that said candidate inhibitor is an MRP- β ~~modulator~~ inhibitor, thereby identifying an MRP- β inhibitor.

142. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor ~~modulator~~ of MRP- β , comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting a cell with a cytotoxin exported or sequestered by MRP- β said cell expressing a vector-derived MRP- β polypeptide encoded the nucleic acid molecule having the sequence of SEQ ID No: 1;
- (b) contacting said cell with a candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor of MRP- β ;
- (c) assaying survival of said cell,

wherein a detectable ~~fluctuation-decrease~~ in said survival ~~which~~ indicates that said candidate inhibitor is an MRP- β ~~modulator~~ inhibitor, thereby identifying an MRP- β inhibitor.

143. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor ~~modulator~~ of MRP- β , comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting a cell with a cytotoxin exported or sequestered by MRP- β , said cell expressing a vector-derived MRP- β polypeptide by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited as ATCC Deposit No. 94809;
- (b) contacting said cell with a candidate ~~modulator~~ inhibitor of MRP- β ;
- (c) assaying survival of said cell,

wherein a detectable ~~fluctuation-decrease~~ in said survival ~~which~~ indicates that said candidate inhibitor is an MRP- β ~~modulator~~ inhibitor, thereby identifying an MRP- β inhibitor.